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Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

COLOR OF THE TUNA

The colors of active free swimming marine fishes are often of great brilliance and beauty, highly iridescent. At the same time, they change and fade very quickly when the fish is taken from the water, and in even the best known forms what definite record we have in the way of color-plates and color descriptions is likely to be unsatisfactory.

On August 10, 1922, the writer had the pleasure of fishing for tuna in a power boat off Block Island, Rhode Island, as a guest of Mr. F. C. Walcott. The sky was overcast, wind fresh easterly, and occasional scattered Wilson's Petrels were flying over the choppy, grey green water. Sighting a little close-bunched hovering flock of terns, the fishing boat was directed toward them. As we approached we could see the water beneath thrown into swirls by some large fish, and trolling across the spot hooked a 27 pound tuna (*Thunnus thynnus*) some 30 inches in total length.

Fresh from the water, this fish was of great beauty. Its color above was dark steel blue, with grey and green. Its cheeks were silver; sides and lower parts greyish silver highly iridescent in several colors, especially pink; and with vertical bands of longitudinally oval bright spots; these bright bands narrowing and fading out in the dark sides of the back. Dorsals

dusky, except the finlets which were yellow more or less margined with black. Anal and its finlets greyish silver. Caudal dusky more or less overlaid with grayish silver at base. Ventrals greyish silver outside, blackish inside.

The stomach of this fish, by the way, was crowded with some fifty individuals of a small herring about 4 inches long, and also contained one longer, slenderer halfbeak (known to the fishermen as "skipjack") and one small squid.

This was, of course, a small individual of the great Tunny. Its colors were probably not unlike those of larger fish. In July, 1918, one 6 or 7 feet long, which would have weighed perhaps 500 pounds, was examined by the writer while being shipped to the New York market from Long Island. Its faded colors, according to notes made at the time, were as follows: "Snout to caudal dark steel-grey, almost black. Gill covers and belly dull purplish silvery. Flanks green grey with obscure oval pale linear spots and rings, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Iris luminous blue-green silver. Spinous dorsal blackish. Soft dorsal and caudal dusky. Dorsal finlets orange yellow edged with black in front and behind. Anal finlets the same, but black edging very narrow and posterior only. Pectoral and ventral black above and dark grey silver below."—J. T. NICHOLS, *New York, N. Y.*

SOME AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

During the summers of 1918, 1920 and 1921, Mr. Harlan I. Smith, Dominion Archæologist, kindly sent me from British Columbia the amphibians and reptiles here listed, and also supplied the annotations relating to habitats.

Clinton, B. C., with an annual rainfall of about 6 inches, is located in irrigated, sagebrush country. Meadow Lake is on a jack pine plateau about 20 miles north of Clinton. Watson Lake is similarly located about 45 miles north of Clinton. The vicinity